



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Gregory N. Larkin, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.
State Health Commissioner

September 1, 2010

To: Indiana Health Care Providers who immunize children,

The school requirement for preschoolers attending a preschool at an accredited K-12 school to have 2 varicella doses prior to school entry this year has raised some questions among medical providers. Because we continue to have outbreaks of chickenpox in our schools, the intent of this requirement was to ensure maximum protection from chickenpox for all students. The CDC Immunization Schedule states “the second dose (of varicella vaccine) may be administered before age 4, provided at least 3 months have elapsed since the first dose.”

However, the unintended consequence of this requirement for preschoolers has been confusion because it is outside the “routine” vaccination schedule recommended by the CDC.

In response to these concerns, this **requirement** will be changed to a **recommendation**. This change has been reflected on the updated 2010-2011 Quick Reference Guide.

I apologize for any confusion this change to the routine immunization schedule may have caused.

Respectfully,

Joan M. Duwve, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Public Health and Preparedness Commission